

arranged to dictate the ratio of electric field in the respective adjacent accelerating cells, at least one coupling cell being variable to allow a range of ratios including positive values and negative values.

8. The method of claim 7 in which the at least one coupling cell is variable smoothly from a positive value to a negative value.

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9.(Amended) The use of an accelerator according to claim 1, for taking kilovoltage portal images.

REMARKS

It is respectfully requested that the above amendments be made prior to calculating the filing fee. In this Preliminary Amendment, the claims are amended to remove multiple dependencies, and the Abstract is provided on a separate sheet. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number listed below if such a call would in any way facilitate examination of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date:

February 5, 2002

By

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**APPENDIX:
MARKED UP VERSION OF SPECIFICATION AND CLAIM AMENDMENTS**

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 10 without prejudice. Please amend claims 3, 4 and 9 as follows:

3. (Amended) An accelerator according to claim 1 [or claim 2] in which the beam is relativistic over substantially the length of the accelerator.

4. (Amended) An accelerator according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, in which the variable coupling cell comprises a cavity containing a conductive element rotatable about an axis transverse to the beam axis.

9.(Amended) The use of an accelerator according to [any one of claims 1 to 4] claim 1, for taking kilovoltage portal images.

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